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Tornado wreaks havoc in communities of Noord and Washington



South side roof of Santa Anna Church

Islanders were woken yesterday morning by brilliant flashes of lightening and crashing thunder, as a severe squall moved in on the Aruba at 6:00 AM for about an hour. Forces of weather are at work around the Caribbean, with Hurricane Irene leaving its wake, TD 10 12.4 north and 30.4 degrees west, which is expected to become a tropical storm, while invest 90 and 98 add to the mix. This is a particularly busy week for the annual storm season.

Though Aruba is not in the path of any of these weather patterns, they do combine to

affect the area, and yesterday morning's storm facilitated an unusual burst of wind causing unprecedented damage to three island neighborhoods. Head Meteorologist Marck Oduber described it as a "down draft," and refused to speculate on the wind velocities. "It was not a tornado, as many believed," he explained.

The neighborhoods of Washington, and Noord not far from Palm Beach, and Alto Vista were affected by a blast of wind sufficient to remove most of the roof tiles off Santa Ana Church, and leave large gaps in the structure. The "Sa-

cred Heart of Jesus" statue, which has stood in the courtyard since 1932, and was refurbished in 2007, was blown off its pedestal and beheaded.

Parents and their children stared in amazement when coming to drop their youngsters at the Santa Ana School behind the church, as the gates

remained locked and the school's roofing filled the corridors and courtyard. Washington Primary and Kindergarten schools were also closed, and will continue to be so today. The Department of Public Works, DOW, working with the fire department, was able to clear the Alto Vista School

so it can operate. Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers, stated nearly 1,000 school children were unable to attend school.

Debris and broken trees pulled down current lines; garbage cans were lifted and tossed blocks away from homes. *Cont. on pg 8*



A roof blown off and the interior destroyed

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Steve Jobs resigns as Apple CEO



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - The stock market will grapple on Thursday with what to make of Apple's future now that legendary co-founder Steve Jobs has stepped down from the helm.

"I have always said if there ever came a day when I could no longer meet my duties and expectations as Apple's CEO, I would be the first to let you know," Jobs said in his resignation letter. "Unfortunately, that day has come."

Jobs is seen as the heart and soul of Apple, with analysts and investors repeatedly expressing concern over how

the Cupertino, California-based company will fare without the figure, who is seen as its driving force.

Apple's share price slid more than five percent to \$357.10 in trading that followed news of his resignation.

"Apple will do just fine," Baker told AFP. "There are so many talented people there, and Steve's attention to detail is baked into the culture."

Jobs will still be around as chairman of the Apple board and the company has product plans mapped, according to Baker. Apple is expected to launch a fifth-generation iPhone in September or October.

"Apple is an execution monster, and that includes products, supply chain and marketing," Baker said. "Their roadmap is in place; I'm sure they are already working on the next iPad."

The Apple statement made no direct mention of Jobs' health but the announcement

will raise fears that his situation is deteriorating.

His battle with pancreatic cancer earlier included a lengthy leave for a liver transplant in 2009.

Cook has been handling day-to-day operations since Jobs went on medical leave in January.

Jobs is a living legend in Silicon Valley. He is the beloved visionary behind the Macintosh computer, the iPod, the iPhone and the iPad as well as the iTunes online shop.

Born on February 24, 1955 in San Francisco to a single mother and adopted by a couple in nearby Mountain View at barely a week old, he grew up among the orchards that would one day become the technology hub known as Silicon Valley.

Jobs was 21 and Steve Wozniak 26 when they founded Apple Computer in the garage of Jobs's family home in 1976.

Strauss-Kahn gets passport back: legal team

NEW YORK (AFP) - Dominique Strauss-Kahn was given back his passport Thursday, his legal team said, clearing the way for the former IMF head to travel abroad for the first time since his arrest three months ago on sex crime charges.

Strauss-Kahn has been a free man since Tuesday when a New York judge agreed to a

request by prosecutors to drop all charges against him.

The DA's office said it could no longer pursue the case because while Strauss-Kahn did engage in sex with a Manhattan hotel maid, her repeated lying to investigators made it impossible to prove beyond a reasonable doubt her allegations of sexual assault.

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REWARD

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A handout picture released on August 25, 2011 by opposition group Al-Manara media shows a poster picturing Libya's Moamer Kadhafi, with a reward of 1, 700,000 USD dollars (1,174,921 euros) for his capture dead or alive. The group calls on people in Libya to hang the poster all over Libya.

AFP PHOTO

UN releases \$1.5 billion for Libya

UNITED NATION (AFP) - The United States and South Africa reached a deal Thursday to let the UN Security Council release \$1.5 billion of seized Libyan assets for emergency aid, diplomats said.

South Africa had been blocking the move at the UN sanctions committee on Libya for more than two weeks because it said channeling the money through the rebel government could imply recognition of the National Transitional Council (NTC).

Neither South Africa nor the African Union has yet recognized the Libyan opposition administration, whose supporters have now taken much of Tripoli as it seeks to definitively take power from Moamer Kadhafi.

The \$1.5 billion is held by the United States, which wants to send \$500 million to international humanitarian groups, \$500 million to the NTC to pay for salaries and essential services and \$500 million to an international fund for Libya to pay for fuel and other emergency items.

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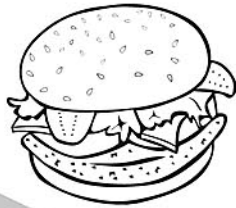
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More opportunities for luring Aruban professionals back to Aruba

ORANJESTAD -- The government of Aruba is currently focusing on creating opportunities from various angles to interest Aruban professionals to return to their homeland after completing their university studies in Holland and other countries broad. The progressive Aruban economy offers Aruban professionals opportunities to return and join the positive development taking place on their island. In this vein the government called a press conference to explain the process that will make this possible, and at the same time to present the group that is organizing an event in Holland to this effect.

In December, in the Netherlands, there will be a major recruiting event designed to recruit Aruban professionals to return to Aruba. In Rotterdam, they will be holding an event which has already gained the attention and interest of the local press. Many companies interested in participating in a recruitment effort have seen a presentation and are interested in participating in a "job fair" of vacancies for Arubans.

The organizers of the "Aruba Recruitment Event," dubbed "ARE" have been making presentations for several weeks now to a number of local companies concerning this upcoming event. The event is scheduled to take place in the Netherlands for 3 days. They claim that this event will be distinctively different from any previous recruiting event.

ARE will be focusing on providing relevant information to students. They have made presentations to, among others, banks, insurance companies, companies and institutions in the health sector, construction companies and companies in the tourism sector.

According to Prime Minis-

ter Eman... We constantly face situations where our professionals return to Aruba, but because of the lack of proper coordination and the lack of transparency in the market where the jobs are, many of these professionals end up applying for government jobs. However, because of the lean budgets of the government they usually cannot employ most of these professionals. Eman went on to say that it is crucially important that the private sector have a vibrant and transparent market where our young professionals can find work. It is in that context, says Eman, the government is taking certain initiatives. He was making reference to the recently discussed law proposal already in Parliament for their deliberations and approval. This law proposal will afford all students with government study loans a sizeable 30% reduction in the repayment amount of their loans should they return to the island to work within at least 3 after completing their studies.

Eman understands that this incentive alone will not necessarily get our professionals to return home. A campaign of an economic market that is producing new jobs and creating opportunities for progress and development is what makes a difference.

The "Aruba Recruitment Event" promises to be an open, transparent opportunity for accounting offices, lawyer bureaus, and utility companies, hotels, and the refinery in Aruba to find Aruban professionals to fill job vacancies that they may have. On December 1, 2, 3 and 4th Flinx and the government of Aruba will support this event.

Flinx is a company under the direction of two former students, one Aruban and the other from Curacao, who after

completing their university studies formed a company to help young professionals from Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten, Saba and St. Eustatius to return to their island to work.

Together with a team of Arubans in Holland, director Tristan Every is organizing the "Aruba Recruitment Event" especially for companies in Aruba to establish contact with Aruban professionals in Holland or in Europe in general. This is something unique. To date, nothing similar specifically geared for Aruba has ever been done.

The Aruban team organizing the "Aruba Recruitment Event" in Holland is working diligently on the preparations in Rotterdam, while Mr. Every is here making presentations to interested local companies. Mr. Every expressed great satisfaction for the support received from the Prime Minister and government of Aruba for their project. Every explained the object of the "Aruba Recruitment Event." According to Tristan Every this event is for Aruban companies to go to Holland and attend a job fair where they will come in direct contact with Aruban professionals completing their studies or those who have completed their studies and are working in Holland. There they will provide them information concerning the possibilities that exist in Aruba, they will also make contact with other professionals working in Aruba for years who will give them information about what they will need to consider in returning to Aruba for employment. In essence, the entire focus of the event will be on Aruba alone. This is what will make this "Aruba Recruitment Event" so very unique!

The San Nicolas Project File is ready!

ORANJESTAD -- The Fondo Desaroyo Arubano (FDA) is expected to receive the completed Project File for the renovation of San Nicolas by next week. This was announced by Maria Dijkhoff-Pita director of the Department of Economic Affairs when she received all the documents from the government which pertain to the various projects in San Nicolas. This Project File is an integral part of the "BoAruba" project.

The Prime Minister was extremely pleased to have arrived at this point after the pressure he had been receiving from Minister de Meza about the plans for San Nicolas. After in depth discussions with the American Planners Association and the University of Pennsylvania group, the different leaders and citizens of San Nicolaas, they were able to come up with a concrete plan for the renovation of the barrios and districts of San Nicolaas.

They included all the ideas into one vision for San Nicolaas in the Project File which

was submitted yesterday to the Department of Economic Affairs. The next step will be for the professionals in this department to review the document based on established criteria to ascertain whether they comply with the total vision. After this review by the Department of Economic Affairs the Project File will be sent to FDA. FDA also has its procedure for the evaluation of the plans.

Once both parties approve the Project File, each of the individual projects within the total plan under the "Bo Aruba" project for San Nicolas will be submitted to FDA to be executed. The individual components of the macro plan will be approved in the same way that the plan for the renovation of the Center of Oranjestad is being carried out.

One part of the total project for San Nicolas has to do with the renovation of the Water Tower. Despite the delay with that project, once it is completed will be a magnificent museum with a Market Place around it. *Cont. on pg 4*

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Aruba Hospital's oncology department ready to offer advanced care

In the last few years the Aruba Dr. Horacio Oduber Hospital increased their team of oncology specialists in proportion to the steady increase in cancer patients. With the amplification of their specialists the Hospital can now offer basic care to combat cancer on the same level as that of the US or Holland. This includes treatment for breast cancer, prostate, lung, kidney and other cancers. The Hospital also has some of the most modern machinery and equipment to perform operations. They can also offer chemotherapy to eliminate cancerous cells remaining after surgery. For radiation therapy the patient still has to travel to Curacao, but the after care takes place here in Aruba.

Since 2005 with the arrival of Oncologist Dr. Henk Wassenaar and most recently the coming of Dr. Roel Jonkhoff in 2011, oncology in Aruba has taken on more form and has grown considerably. Today the Hospital can boast about hav-



ing a modern center where patients receive expert, modern oncological care. Before the coming of Wassenaar and now Jonkhoff oncological patients were referred to an Oncologist

from Curacao who came to Aruba once a week to treat cancer patients.

Today our Hospital's oncological department has a team of specialists comprised of a surgical oncologist, lung specialist, urologist, hematologist and oncologists. There are also a team of gynecologists and nurses with special oncological training who are in contact with cancer patients on a daily

basis.

Specialists meet once every week to deliberate on the different cancer cases they face here on Aruba. They also maintain frequent contact with colleagues in the Netherlands and in the US. The Hospital has pathologists in service who do the microscopic examinations and who have the most modern machinery for CTscans and MRI scans. One

of the slogans they use every day is... "We can do a lot and should we need to do more we can arrange that for you."

There are certain types of cancer that are not treated here in Aruba, such as brain tumors, cancer in small children, and leukemia. Patients with these forms of cancer are referred to an optimal care center at a University Center in Colombia or in Holland.

In addition to the new Mama Poli introduced a few years ago which provides special care to breast cancer patients, the Hospital has much more planned for the future. They intend to do everything possible to elevate their oncological care in the Oncology Department.

The Hospital reported their satisfaction with the new Immune Therapy and has already registered for this in Europe and the US. Our AZV has indicated that they will cover the cost for this therapy making this type of treatment available to cancer patients in Aruba. Along with their intent on curing cancer, they will put much more attention on the registration of cancer as well as on a finding ways to identify cancer in its earliest stage.

The San Nicolaas Project...

Continued from page 3

It also entails the renovation of the Village. According to Eman, several years ago the homes in the Village were renovated. But this time they will give more attention to the infrastructure to improve the quality of life which would include a park, lighting, paved side walks rather than asphalt covering. There will be two parks; one will be at the piece of land that the Refinery is bequeathing to the government, and the other on the way to Esso Heights. There will also be the Carnival Museum in the Pastoor Hendrikstraat where the rich culture of Aruba will be on display.

A favorite area of the Prime Minister is the residential area of Diamantbergweg. The government plans to give this area special attention and will involve FCCA in this area.

They intend to renovate the entire infrastructure and will embark on a project similar to

the one realized in the Village some years ago. They will restore houses in bad repair and/or build houses. According to the Prime Minister... "this will change the entire area. The area of Diamantbergweg is a particularly beautiful area, slightly elevated on a hill with a fantastic view. But many of the homes through the years have deteriorated. Many of the residents most probably do not have the resources to repair them. However, together with FCCA and the government they will embark on a project similar to what was done in the Village to improve these homes and the entire infrastructure of the area."

The restoration and renovation of the barrios in Aruba, including San Nicolas is an integral part of the total plan of the government... to create a different and modern Aruba product is what the BOAruba Plan is all about.



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Colombian Consul bids Aruba Prime Minister farewell



bia and Aruba goes a long way back; it is the Aruban government's wish to "maintain or even improve it, according to Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman while he receiving Colombian Consul, Mrs. Pilar Vargas Alvares, in his office. Mrs. Vargas Alvares paid a visit to PM Eman to say farewell, because she will be leaving the island in September to pursue other interests in her native country.

The Colombian Consul presented the Prime Minister a farewell gift of books written by internationally recognized Colombian author

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, who wrote "Love in the time of Cholera," among dozens of other significant novels, short stories and non fiction, to display in his office. Gabriel Garcia Marquez is considered one of the most significant authors of the 20th century and was awarded the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Minister Eman expressed his most sincere gratitude and the wish to continue keeping a close relationship with Colombia, especially in regards to trade and commerce.

Aruba says 'thank you'



Recently a group of loyal visitors were honored as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba at the Aruba Phoenix Resort. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for between ten to nineteen (Distinguished) and twenty or more (Ambassador of good Will) consecutive years. The honorees were Mrs. Bonnie Williams, Mrs. Ingrid Fernhout, Mrs. Gilda Todisco and Mr. Perry Maione. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel from the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Kimmy Wong from the Aruba Phoenix Resort.



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International Trade Vice Minister from Panama visits Aruba Prime Minister



ORANJESTAD – A delegation of the trade sector of Panama is at presently on Aruba for Trade Mission, organized by the Aruba Chamber of Commerce. Among them is the International Trade Vice Minister, Mr. Jose Domingo Arias, who paid a courtesy visit to Aruba Prime Minister Mike Eman. Mr. Arias was accompanied by Aruba Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Mrs. Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, welcomed him personally at the airport upon his arrival. Also accompanying Mr. Arias during his visit with the Prime Minister were Consul of Panama to Aruba, Mrs. Anabel Arends Mojica and Mrs. Zulema Dabian Erasmus of the Aruban Department of Foreign Affairs.

Sci-Tech

Planet is home to 8.7 million species: study



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Some 8.7 million different species exist on Earth, though a tiny amount of those have actually been discovered and catalogued, researchers said Tuesday.

The count, described by the open access journal PLoS Biology in which it is presented as "the most precise calculation ever offered," replaces previous estimates that swung between three million and 100 million.

About 1.25 million species have been discovered and classified since Swedish scientist Carl Linnaeus came up in the mid-1700s with the taxonomy system still used today.

The 8.7 million figure is a projection based on a mathematical analysis of currently known species.

Around 86 percent of land species and 91 percent of creatures in the ocean have yet to be discovered, said the findings by scientists at Dalhousie University in Canada and the University of Hawaii.

"The question of how many species exist has intrigued scientists for centuries and the answer, coupled with research by others into species' distribution and abundance, is particularly important now because a host of human activities and influences are accelerating the rate of extinctions," said lead author Camilo Mora of the University of Hawaii.

"Many species may vanish before we even know of their existence, of their unique niche and function in ecosystems, and of their potential contribution to improved human well-being."

The study estimated that there are 7.77 million species of animals, of which 953,434 have been described and catalogued, and 298,000 species

of plants, with 215,644 of them described and catalogued so far.

Researchers also said there are likely 611,000

species of fungi, such as mold and mushrooms, of which 43,271 are known to science.

Some 36,400 species of protozoa, or single-cell organisms such as amoebas and 27,500 species of chromista, such as brown algae and water molds, were also included in the projected count.

"Humanity has committed itself to saving species from extinction, but until now we have had little real idea of even how many there are," said co-author Boris Worm of Dalhousie University.

The Red List issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature monitors 59,508 species, of which 19,625 are classified as threatened.

Sony remodels PlayStation Home



(AFP) -- Sony is remodeling PlayStation Home to put games at center stage in a virtual world that merges console-quality play with styles of social gaming that are hits at venues such as Facebook.

Sony Computer Entertainment America on Tuesday announced that it is remodeling Home, which is used by more than 23 million people worldwide, as part of an evolution from a social network into a social gaming platform.

"We discovered that if you put a lot of gamers in a room together and tell them to get to know each other, they don't necessarily do that," PlayStation Home director Jack Buser told AFP.

"We find if you put them together and give them a game, they play and get to know each other," he added while discussing the inspiration for the redesign to be unveiled in coming months.

Home launched in late 2008 as an online world in which PlayStation 3 videogame console users represented by animated figures referred to as "avatars" could socialize and play.

"PlayStation Home's new core experience is a giant leap in the evolution of the platform and its new model quickly deploys our users to many compelling free-to-play games that fit their interests," Buser said.

The Home redesign includes the creation of a "hub" that integrates games, quests, community events, user-generated content, shopping and more.

PlayStation users will be able to "transport" their animated characters to game districts with themes such as action, sports, and adventure.

"Under the hood of all this we will be deploying a quest system that will turn Home itself into a game," Buser said.

Home is at the heart of Sony's PlayStation Network that lets owners of PS3 consoles access games, films, and other entertainment.

Home has more than 230 titles available and has been incorporating successful social game models such as free play supported by advertising or sales of premium content.



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Seniors learn better from mistakes: study



OTTAWA (AFP) - Canadian researchers have found the first evidence that older brains remember information better if it is learned through trial and error, rather than passively taking it in, a study said Wednesday.

"Learning the hard way proved to be the best way," lead study investigator Andree-Ann Cyr told AFP.

The finding was published in the Psychology and Aging journal online, ahead of the print edition.

Educators and cognitive rehabilitation clinicians were surprised at the findings, which challenge a large body of published science that has shown that making mistakes while learning information hurts memory performance for older adults, and that passive learning is better suited to older brains.

"The scientific literature has traditionally embraced er-

rorless learning for older adults," said Cyr.

"However, our study has shown that if older adults are learning material that is very conceptual, where they can make a meaningful relationship between their errors and the correct information that they are supposed to remember, in those cases the errors can actually be quite beneficial for the learning process."

The difference in the two methods is akin to reading a book versus passively watching a movie. "It requires more cognitive effort when you have to come up with the answers yourself," Cyr said.

The brain makes richer associations and linkages when encoding the information if it has to dig for the answers, whereas passive or errorless learning is less taxing on the brain, because the correct answer is simply provided.



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Health & Living

Diabetes diet: Should I avoid sweet fruits?

It is a common myth that if you have diabetes you shouldn't eat certain foods because they are "too sweet." Some fruits do contain more sugar than others, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't eat them if you have diabetes. The total amount of carbohydrates affects blood sugar levels more than does the source of carbohydrates or whether the source is a starch or sugar. One serving of fruit should contain 15 grams of carbohydrates. The size of the serving depends on the carbohydrate content of the fruit. The advantage of eating a low-carbohydrate fruit is that you can consume a larger portion. But whether you eat a low-carb or high-carb fruit, as long as the serving size contains 15 grams of carbohydrates, the effect on your blood sugar is the same.

The following fruit servings contain about 15 grams of carbohydrates:

- 1/2 medium banana
- 1/2 cup (83 grams) cubed mango
- 1 1/4 cup (190 grams) cubed watermelon
- 1 1/4 cup (180 grams) whole strawberries
- 1/3 cup (80 grams) sapodilla (chikoo)
- 3/4 cup (124 grams) cubed pineapple

US approves Botox for bladder control

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The face-freezing pharmaceutical injection Botox gained another medical use on when the US government approved it for use in some patients with overactive bladder.

The new application was given the nod by the US Food and Drug Administration to treat people with multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injury who suffer from urinary incontinence and must manage it with medication or a catheter.

"Urinary incontinence associated with neurologic conditions can be difficult to manage," said George Benson, deputy director of FDA's division of Reproductive and Urologic Products.

"Botox offers another treatment option for these patients."

The new method allows a

physician to inject Botox into a patient's bladder, where it relaxes the muscles and allows more urine to be stored.

Clinical studies showed such injections could decrease episodes of urinary incontinence for a period of nine months.

Botox, which is marketed by the California-based Allergan, is also approved for treatment of chronic migraines, severe underarm sweating, eyelid twitching and certain kinds of muscle stiffness, the FDA said.

The drug is made from a toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. In other forms it can cause a deadly type of food poisoning called botulism, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Dengue fever under attack through smart mosquito control

PARIS (AFP) - Scientists reported promising results from tests on a new way of assailing dengue fever by stealthily weakening populations of mosquitoes carrying the virus which causes the deadly disease.

Dengue affects between 50 and 100 million people in the tropics and subtropics each year, causing fever, muscle and joint ache as well as potentially fatal dengue haemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome.

The disease is caused by four strains of virus that are spread by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. There is no vaccine, which is why scientists are fo-

cussing so intensely on mosquito control.

In 2009, biologist at the University of California at Davis and others hit on the idea of inserting a naturally-occurring bacterial parasite called *Wolbachia* to shorten the mosquito's lifespan so that the virus would not have enough time to develop.

Initial excitement was followed by disappointment. The strain of *Wolbachia* they used was somewhat virulent and knocked out the mosquitoes before they had the chance of spreading into the wild mosquito population.

Going back to the drawing board, the scientists found a

non-virulent strain of *Wolbachia* in the fruitfly *Drosophila* -- a standard choice for laboratory research -- and believed they had the answer.

Introduced into the mosquito, the germ prevented the insect from becoming infected by the dengue virus.

Yet it was also harmless. The mosquito's fitness, a measure of its ability to survive and reproduce, was reduced only by about 10 to 20 percent.

The *Wolbachia* is a symbiotic bacterium, meaning that it exists by living in harmony with its host.

The paper appears in *Nature*, the weekly British science journal

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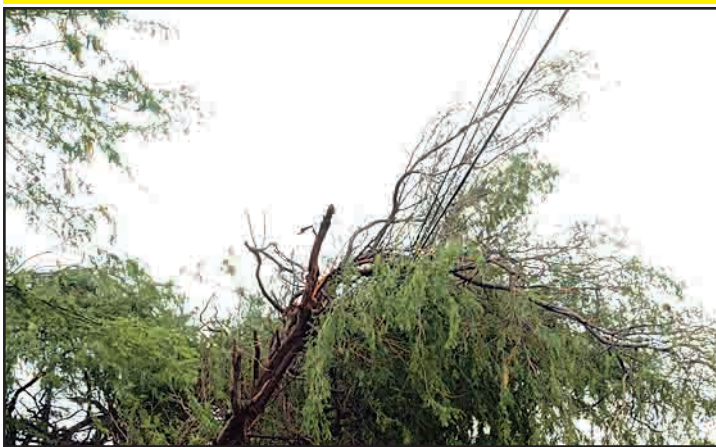
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Tornado wreaks havoc in communities of Noord and Washington

Continued from page 1



Electrical wires down



Rooftops peeled back like lids on a sardine tin



Sacred Heart of Jesus statue destroyed



Slices of roofing tossed into the surrounding scrub

Community Police Office Marlon Pieters, who lives in Boegoeroei, which lies between Washington and Noord, described the sound of the down draft "like a freight train passing through, or one of those long strings of firecrackers we light her on New Year's Eve." — "Except this seemed to never end" commented a neighbor. It struck between 6:30 and 7:00 PM, report witnesses.

The down draft peeled back roof tops as if they were lids of sardine tins. By 8:00 AM, staff from Aruba's Disaster Victim Assistance was interviewing Eveline Tromp, whose kitchen and living room were in complete disarray as she lost nearly her entire roof. Her neighbor, two doors down, Mena, was preparing her children for school when her roof suddenly flew off, parts of it heading into her yard and smashing her car windows. The Ministry of Social Affairs reports 22 homes were badly damaged, and Minister of Finance, Mike de Meza,

along with Minister of Infrastructure, Benny Se-vinger, assured those affected who do not have insurance, will be assisted by their ministries and their agencies in repairing their homes. Presently, DOW is assessing the damage and the costs. President of Parliament Paul Croes visited the scene early on to inquire of homeowners and their needs. Minister of Social Affairs, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar announced those requiring assistance should call 582-3145.

The Red Cross reports they are providing shelter for two families that do not have other family members with which to stay until their homes are repaired. Individuals wishing to volunteer or assist families in need by providing comestibles or clothing, a can call 582-2219.

Aruba police were redirecting traffic and general chaos reigned during the busy commuting hour in this heavily residential neighborhood. Deputy Chief Commissioner of Police



Santa Anna church loses its roof

Trudy Hassell stated this was not helped by islanders coming in to "rubberneck." She requests that all non-essential personal and those not living in the area stay away from the Santa Ana Church and surroundings; the lights at this very busy and crucial intersection are not working and police are busy directing traffic. Police will also be providing extra personnel and patrols to maintain order and insure security to the damaged homes. The roads around the church are filled with broken



Mena contemplates the damage to her home



School is out for the day for Santa Anna students

roof panels, tree branches and cactus, and vehicles from the various agencies need access to the area to initiate repairs and get things back to normal. Ex-

cessive traffic from "sight-seers" will only interfere with their efforts, so she asks the public to "please stay away."

by Rosalie Klein



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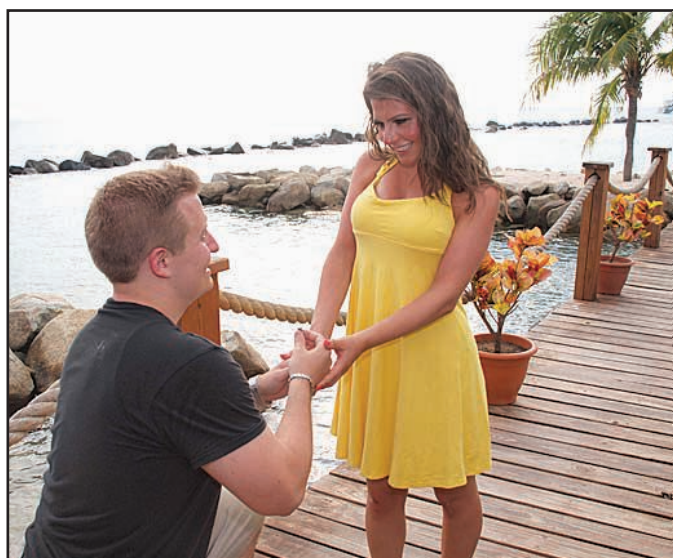


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Michael surprises Sabrina with a marriage proposal



That moment to remember always



The ring



Sabrina recruits a bridesmaid

"I have been coming to Aruba since I was a baby," confides Sabrina Stein of New York City, "I have tra-

veled other places in the Caribbean, but I don't have the special feeling for any of them, as I do for Aruba."

Sabrina is lucky enough to have a grandfather, Ben, who bought into the Renaissance Beach Suites while it was still called Harbortown, and fortunately, he likes to share his love for the island with his grandchild.

That feeling became even more special, as this year, while vacationing with her boyfriend, Michael Slavkovski, Sabrina was treated to what she considers the



SS and MS forever

most thrilling moment of her life, he proposed. "I thought it would be appropriate," comments Michael, "we have

had so many wonderful times here since she first brought me to Aruba 3 years ago; so this was definitely the place to do it."

A great deal of discussion with their friends resulted in several possible scenarios, but Michael choose the moment after they had just enjoyed a couples massage at "The Cove" on Renaissance Island. They were both pleased with the outcome.

Renaissance Island has much to recommend it as a spot for a proposal, but stunning beaches and flamingos roaming them to act as witness to this romantic moment. "It couldn't have been more perfect," gushed Sabrina.

Staff of THE MORNING NEWS wishes Michael and Sabrina all the happiness in the world, and many special moments such as this.

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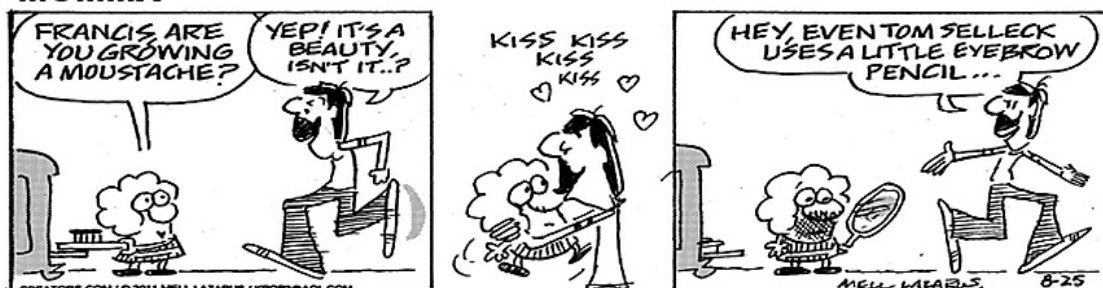
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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Douglas, e.g.
4. Skyrocket
8. "Rock of ____"
12. Epoch
13. Face: Sp.
14. ____ over (study)
15. First-rate
17. Artist with words
18. Unabridged
19. ____ hat
20. Dry: prefix
21. ____ to the gills
24. Does modeling
27. Alley prowler
28. Bullfight cry
29. Rock concert gear
30. London pea-souper
31. Pre-Christmas purchase
32. Nothing
33. Amphora
34. Caramel-colored drinks
35. Like many scenes in "Body Heat"
37. Taft's was custom built
38. Bar quickie
39. Gilbert of the NBA
43. Chianti and marsala
45. Steakhouse order
47. Machiavellian
48. Plant on a kitchen sill
49. Billfold item
50. "Marat/____"

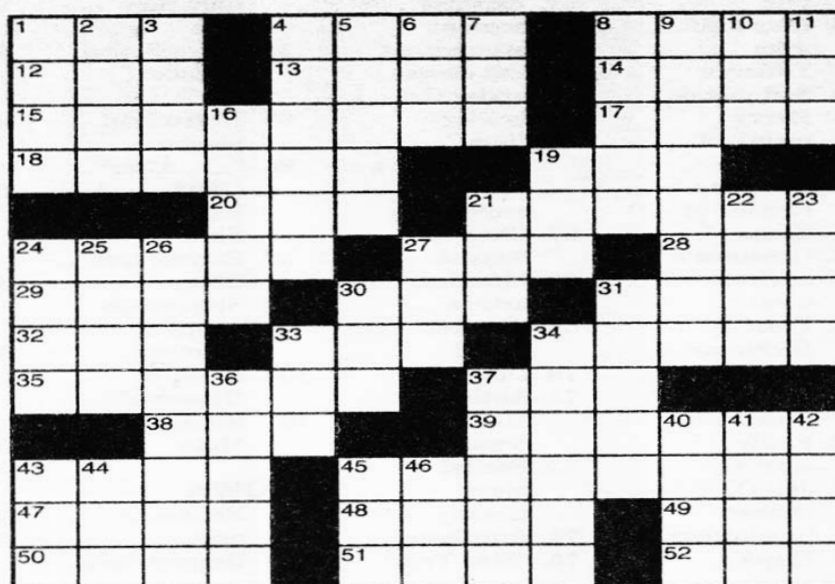
51. Ham's outer covering
52. Bob Dole's state: abbr.

DOWN

1. Entertainment
2. Triathlete's metal
3. Extremely attentive
4. Slides one past the goalie
5. Cowboy movie
6. Rainbow shape
7. Bleachers sound
8. Gwyneth's girl
9. Phrase of praise

10. Before, before
11. After on, off, in, or out
16. Vetoes
19. Cooperstown's Mel
21. ____ Harbor, New York
22. Part of an Appomattox signature
23. Under-achiever's grades
24. Camera moves
25. Skip
26. Terrific
27. ____ amore (with love)
30. Cook in a skillet
31. "And so ____"

- (Pepys)
33. Strike caller, for short
34. Blasted one's biceps
36. Lovers' lane
37. Hawk's gripper
40. Small recess
41. Designer Sui
42. Beheld
43. ____ gestae
44. Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
45. ____ chest (campaign fund)
46. Bush or Clinton



SMASHING!



Aug 20 - Aug 27

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Numbers

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Sudoku

8	7	2			9			4
6	5				3		7	
				7	5			9
2						4		5
7		6		5		2		8
5		1						7
3				9	2			
	6			5			2	3
9				3			8	4
								1

SOLUTION

1	7	8	4	9	5	2	6
5	2	6	8	7	5	4	9
9	5	4	1	2	6	7	8
8	9	5	2	6	8	1	7
5	1	7	9	5	4	8	6
6	8	9	5	4	2	7	1
7	4	1	8	7	6	5	9
4	5	6	1	9	2	7	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

US stocks slump ahead of Bernanke speech

NEW YORK (AFP) - US stocks fell on Thursday, a day before Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke gives a much-anticipated speech that will offer hints of how the Fed may act to stimulate the ailing US economy.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 170.89 points (1.51 percent) to 11,149.82 in closing trade.

The broader S&P 500 dropped 18.33 points (1.56 percent) to 1,159.27, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slumped 48.06 points (1.95 percent) to 2,419.63.

Stocks have slumped in recent weeks amid fears of a slowing US economy and fallout from Europe's debt crisis, and investors have been waiting to see if the Fed will react

by further loosening monetary policy.

But analysts were skeptical that Bernanke would endorse a further round of quantitative easing, or "QE", in which the Fed buys assets from banks with electronically-generated cash to inject money into the economy.

"The market was nervous about tomorrow," said Marc Pado, chief US market strategist for Cantor Fitzgerald.

"He's not going to come out with QE. It's not going to happen," Pado said.

Apple closed 0.7 percent lower, a relatively muted reaction after its famed chief executive Steve Jobs resigned for health reasons late Wednesday, ushering in a period of uncertainty for the wildly suc-

cessful tech company.

Bank of America skyrocketed by 9.4 percent after billionaire Warren Buffett agreed to invest \$5 billion in the troubled US lender, whose share price has been pummeled in a brutal sell-off in recent weeks.

Buffett's seal of approval for BofA appeared to help other bank stocks too, as Citigroup gained 4.9 percent and Morgan Stanley jumped 2.7 percent.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 2.22 percent from 2.26 percent late Wednesday, while that on the 30-year bond fell to 3.59 percent from 3.61 percent.

Bond prices and yields move in opposite directions.

US gov't recovers nearly \$900 mn in TARP bailout

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Treasury said Thursday it had recovered nearly \$900 million during the first six months of the year in taxpayer money used to bail out the banking system during the financial crisis.

The Treasury said it had received more than \$886 million by June 30 from the Troubled Asset Relief Program, through the sale of warrants it had taken in rescued banks.

"Although the central purpose of TARP was to help stabilize the financial markets during a time of severe crisis, the receipt of these funds is positive news for taxpayers," Tim Massad, the Treasury's assistant secretary for financial stability, said in a statement.

Since the creation of TARP in October 2008, the Treasury said it has received more than \$9 billion from the sale of warrants.

"As a result of these dispositions and other TARP repayments and income, taxpayers have now recovered \$314 billion (76 percent) compared to the \$413 billion disbursed to date for the program," the Treasury said.

TARP was launched following the September 2010 bankruptcy of Wall Street investment bank Lehman Brothers, which sent financial markets plunging.

Mexican tycoon Slim boosts stake in New York Times

NEW YORK (AFP) - Mexican magnate Carlos Slim has increased his stake in The New York Times Co., regulatory filings showed yesterday, boosting the company's stock as it struggles to return to financial health.

Slim -- the world's richest man, according to Forbes

magazine -- raised his ownership from 6.9 percent of the company to 7.5 percent last week, according to documents filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Shares of The New York Times Co., a newspaper company which has struggled to find its footing amid the transition to digital media, surged 4.4 percent in mid-afternoon trading on news of Slim's latest purchase.

The publisher of The New York Times was feared to be on the verge of bankruptcy just two years ago after the global financial crisis triggered a sharp drop in the advertising market.

The SEC filings show that Inmobiliaria Carso SA de CV, one of the companies controlled by the Slim family, bought just over one million of The New York Times Co.'s class A shares in a series of purchases last week.

Slim's company bought 553,000 shares on August 18, according to filings made public on Monday, and an additional 450,000 shares on August 19, according to another filing from yesterday.

Slim is one of the largest individual shareholders in The New York Times Company outside of the Sulzbergers, the wealthy US family that controls the company through its class B voting shares.

With assets ranging from telecommunications to oil and art, Slim has been at the top of the Forbes richest list for two years in a row. The magazine put his fortune at \$74 billion this year.

Besides its renowned flagship newspaper, The New York Times Company owns the International Herald Tribune, The Boston Globe, 15 other newspapers and various websites.

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JPMorgan fined for contravening sanctions

WASHINGTON (AFP) - JPMorgan Chase Bank has been fined \$88.3 million for contravening US sanctions against regimes in Iran, Cuba and Sudan, and the former Liberian government, the US Treasury Department announced.

The Treasury said that the bank had engaged in a number of "egregious" financial transfers, loans and other facilities involving those countries but, in announcing a settlement with the bank, said they were "apparent" violations of various sanctions regulations.

JPMorgan agreed to pay the money "to settle potential civil liability for apparent violations" of seven separate sanctions rules between 2005 and 2011.

It said that between 2005 and 2006, the bank processed nearly \$180 million in transfers involving Cubans in contravention of the Cuban Assets Control Regulations.

In 2009, the bank contra-

vened the Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators Sanctions when it helped to finance a trade deal involving Iran-linked vessels, the Treasury said.

In another case, the Treasury said, the bank failed to turn over requested documents involving a wire transfer related to Sudan.

Treasury called all of those actions "egregious because of reckless acts or omissions" by the bank.

Other transgressions also covered in the settlement include wire transfers that invoked various sanctions regimes, including with the regime of former Liberian strongman Charles Taylor; a letter of credit that contravened the Treasury's Iranian Transactions Regulations; and the transfer of 32,000 ounces of gold bullion to the benefit of an Iranian bank, which JP Morgan failed to report to the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

P	A	R	A	B	L	E	A	B	O	Y		
I	C	E	C	O	O	L	M	O	M	A		
T	H	E	J	U	N	G	L	E	B	O	O	K
S	E	D	A	T	E	A	L	T	O	S		
			M	E	S	S	A	G	E			
E	R	N	E		I	S	L	E	N	S		
G	O	E	S	B	Y	T	H	E	B	O	O	K
O	D	D	L	E	E		A	N	D	Y		
			B	A	S	S	E	T	S			
S	E	D	A	N		J	A	S	P	E	R	
C	R	A	C	K	T	H	E	B	O	O	K	S
O	I	N	K		C	O	C	O	R	E	V	
T	E	E	S		U	N	T	O		E	S	P

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Excellent dining, charming ambiance and a breathtaking view found only at La Trattoria El Faro Blanco



Stunning sunset



Over twenty years ago, a very clever person had the idea of placing a cozy little restaurant on the top of the cliff adjacent to the California Lighthouse, offering the most stunning view of Aruba imaginable.

La Trattoria el Faro Blanco took over the location some years ago, and the restaurant's quaint trappings, superb selection and amenable staff has made it a one of the island's most popular dining spots ever since.

Savoring the sight of a spectacular Aruban sunset and the tiered layout of the eatery also makes it the ideal spot for marking a special occasion, such as an anniversary or a marriage proposal, as well as a perfect venue for weddings or a celebratory party. An extensive and diverse menu and wine list allows those planning a special festivity will be able to devise a memorable event and management is ready and willing to help you stay within your budget.

Many have taken note of this singular location as the place to go for that memorable romantic meal, and their reservation staff reports a waiting list for the rail tables that offer the best unobstructed view,



Risotto Frutti de Mare

recommending reservations well in advance if this is important to you.

The restaurant is now open from early in the day for refreshments, and is the perfect lunch stop while touring, serving from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, after which visitors can enjoy a light snack from their Pizza Mini Menu until 6:00 PM when they officially open for dinner, until 11:00 PM.

All these aspects of charming surroundings, dining al fresco with a breathtaking view (or in their enclosed air-conditioned dining room, if you prefer) and fine food makes La Trattoria El Faro the single dining experience that must not be missed before departing Aruba. Reservations can be made by calling 586-0786 or 586-0787, or via e-mail link at their website, www.aruba-latrattoria.com, where you can peruse their latest menu, as Chef Alberto is always devising some tasty new specialty to take advantage of what is fresh for the season.

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Community Pool

Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups

that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final

with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cook-outs and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Table decor

cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services



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Clothing line with Mandela's '46664' prison ID debuts



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Nelson Mandela Foundation's launched a clothing line this week featuring garments marked with "46664", the anti-apartheid hero's prison number, as part of a fundrais-

ing campaign to counter HIV. The line, manufactured by South African company Seardel, debuted at a leading Johannesburg store and includes men's shirts, polos and jeans bearing the famous anti-



apartheid "Hand of Africa" symbol as a logo. Women's dresses of various colours are also available.

The items on offer are too expensive for most South African consumers, with

polos going for 600 rand (60 euro, \$86).

Initially available in the Stuttafords chain of stores in South Africa, Botswana, and Namibia, the label hopes to open its own specialised shops next year and is looking to sell the products in Europe and the United States.

Between seven and nine percent of the revenue generated by the clothes will go to Mandela's foundation, which is committed to battling the spread of HIV and AIDS.

"When you buy a 46664 shirt, you are not just buying apparel. You are investing in a process that will help spread

the legacy of Nelson Mandela by supporting the long-term sustainability of 46664," said Achmat Dangorm, a foundation board member.

"You are also helping to positively stimulate the local clothing and textile manufacturing industry," he added.

Mandela was given the number 46664 upon his arrival at South Africa's Robben Island prison in 1964, where he remained until 1982.

He spent time in various prisons on the mainland until his release in 1990 and was elected president following South Africa's first-ever free vote in 1994.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V., a proud member of the Maduro & Curiel's Bank Group and affiliated with The Bank of Nova Scotia has updated the rates pertaining the following products:

Table of Interest Rates

Effective September 1, 2011

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Personal Savings Passbook (Florin)	1.00%
Non-Personal Savings Passbook (Florin)	0.10%
Personal Savings Passbook (US Dollars)	0.10%
Youth Savings Plan (Florin)	3.00%
Vacation Savings Plan (Employees Commercial Customers)	1.50%



CMB

CARIBBEAN MERCANTILE BANK N.V.

The relationship between Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. and its customers is governed by the bank's General Conditions.

Champions League draw



MONACO, Monaco : Portuguese football player Luis Filgo shows the name of FC Milan during the draw for the UEFA 2011-2012 football Champions League in Monaco. (AFP PHOTO)

MONACO (AFP) - Champions League group stage draw made here on Thursday:

Group A: Bayern Munich, Villarreal, Manchester City, Napoli

Group B: Inter Milan, CSKA Moscow, Lille, Trabzonspor

Group C: Manchester United, Benfica, FC Basel, FC Otelul Galati

Group D: Real Madrid, Lyon, Ajax, Dinamo Zagreb

Group E: Chelsea, Valencia, Bayer Leverkusen, Genk

Group F: Arsenal, Mar-

seille, Olympiakos, Borussia Dortmund

Group G: FC Porto, Shakhtar Donetsk, Zenit St Petersburg, APOEL Nicosia

Group H: Barcelona, AC Milan, BATE Borisov, Viktoria Plzen

Roddick rolls, Isner struggles in US Open preview

WINSTON-SALEM (AFP) - Andy Roddick rifled over his ninth ace to set up a match point and finished off a 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Juan Monaco Thursday as the American continued to lift his game at the ATP Winston-Salem Open.

Top seed Roddick is making up for a lost summer, the majority of which he sat out with a post-Wimbledon abdominal muscle strain.

The former number one and 2003 US Open champion will play for his first final since February in Memphis when he faces compatriot John Isner on Friday.

Fourth seed Isner reached the semi-finals for the fourth time in his last six events with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Cyprus's Marcos Baghdatis, the player he'll meet in the US Open first round next week.

The North Carolina event, which is likely to avoid the full force of Hurricane Irene, was the setting for wild card and 21st-ranked Roddick to show off the tennis which made him a regular in the top 10 for a decade, until his slide in 2010.

The American overwhelmed Argentina's Mo-



naco, with Roddick sweeping the opening set and securing victory thanks to a break for 5-4 in the second followed by a quick service game which put him through in 66 minutes.

So solid has the revitalised Roddick been all week that he has yet to face a break point in three matches.

Isner, who lost early at the recent Montreal and Cincinnati Masters, continued to shore up his confidence with Monday's the start of the US Open fast approaching.

The North Carolinian, who grew up just 50 kilometres away, fired a dozen aces and made a huge recovery

after dropping the opening set in 22 minutes to Baghdatis, a former Australian Open finalist.

Isner has taken his ace tally for the week to 39 and is pleased with how his big game is working.

"I don't give guys a lot of rhythm, that's for sure," said Isner. "I play first-strike tennis and try to keep it on my terms. I want to keep the points short and mix things up a bit."

Isner admitted he still has things to work on.

"I didn't hit the slice so well today from either side. But this is the second time I've played him this summer and I've had good success," said the American, who beat Baghdatis in Montreal a fortnight ago.

Isner trails Roddick 3-1 in their career series, with Roddick winning their last meeting in March in the third round at Indian Wells.

Isner was blown away with two service breaks in the first set.

But he dropped his serve just once more in the remainder of the contest, which ended in just under two hours as Isner converted his first match point.



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India lift gloom with victory over Sussex

HOVE (AFP) - India lifted the gloom after their crushing Test series defeat against England by warming up for the forthcoming one-day internationals with a six-wicket victory over Sussex at Hove on Thursday.

The Indians lost all four Tests against England, but they showed no signs of a hangover as Parthiv Patel, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma hit half-centuries to secure a first win of the tour.

India, who play further one-day matches against Kent and Leicestershire, reached a Duckworth-Lewis adjusted target of 235 in 45 overs with 4.1 overs to spare and will hope the momentum from this victory can provide some impetus as they prepare for the one-day matches against England, which begin with a Twenty20 clash on August 31.

After India won the toss and elected to bowl, Sussex threatened to post an imposing total thanks to useful contributions from Joe Gattling, Matt Machan and Ben Brown.

But they subsided dramatically after Brown mistimed a slog at Munaf Patel in the 43rd over, losing their last five wickets for 18 runs in 19

balls as RP Singh finished with four for 45.

India included five members of their World Cup-winning side, and Sachin Tendulkar and Patel began confidently enough with a stand of 41 in 7.4 overs before left-armers Chris Liddle foxed Tendulkar with a slower ball which was driven to mid-off.

Patel is anxious to press his claims for a role in the forthcoming one-day series and played attractively for his 55 off 65 balls, including nine fours, before Sussex skipper Chris Nash turned one past him with his first delivery.

Nash and leg-spinner Will Beer occasionally got some sharp turn from a worn pitch but the impressive Kohli and Sharma, who hit two fifties during the one-day series against West Indies in June, improved their chances of facing England in a stand of 104 in 17.5 overs.

Kohli hit six fours and a six off Naved Arif in his 71 in 83 balls before driving to mid-on, but India needed just 27 to win when he departed and Sharma eased to an unbeaten 61 from 65 balls with eight fours and a six.

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North Korea barred from 2015 women's World Cup

PARIS (AFP) - North Korea have been banned from taking part in the 2015 women's World Cup in Canada after five of their players were handed lengthy suspensions by FIFA on Thursday for failing doping tests during this year's edition in Germany.



MINNEAPOLIS, MN - Mark Reynolds #12 of the Baltimore Orioles rounds the bases after hitting a three run home run against the Minnesota Twins in the seventh inning on August 25, 2011 at Target Field in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Orioles defeated the Twins 6-1.

The five players were suspended from the game for periods of 14 to 18 months, the FIFA disciplinary committee announced.

"Pok Sim Jong, Myong Hui Hong, Un Byol Ho, Un Hyang Ri have been declared ineligible for 18 months and Jong Sun Song for 14 months," said the statement.

"Furthermore, the North Korea Football Association's women's A representative team has been excluded from participating in the next FIFA Women's World Cup (Canada 2015), including any preliminary competitions related thereto."

The team doctor, Jong Ae Nam, who claimed that she had used a "Chinese remedy" based on musk deer glands to aid players who had been struck by lightning, was handed a six-year ban from the game as the five players all tested positive for steroids.

The Colombian reserve goalkeeper Yineth Varon, who also tested positive, was given a two-year ban.

Danica steers career in direction of NASCAR



Danica Patrick is one of the highest-paid female athletes in the world. She figures she might as well have as much fun as possible while earning it.

After two years of competing part time in the Nationwide Series, Patrick has opted to move full time to NASCAR, starting with a full Nationwide schedule for JR Motorsports and an 8-to-10 race Sprint Cup schedule for Stewart-Haas Racing.

The 29-year-old IndyCar Series driver would like to make her Cup debut in the 2012 Daytona 500 and has a goal of running full time for Stewart-Haas in 2013 but she said those plans aren't definitive.

What she knows is she has enjoyed her 20 career Nationwide Series starts - even with an average finish of 23.8 - after spending seven seasons competing full time in IndyCar.

"I made this decision because of how much I enjoy driving stock cars and how much I enjoy, in par-

ticular, racing stock cars," Patrick said at a news conference Thursday. "The races are so interesting. There are so many pit stops, there are so many strategies that play out, you have to take care of your car at times, you have to know when to push with it."

"You can kind of throw them around a little bit and overcome some handling issues. You can bump around, which is pretty fun. I just really had fun with it. It's really about enjoying the racing and enjoying the people and enjoying my life when I'm at those races."

By Bob Pockrass

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Couples says Woods on Pres Cup team

SNOQUALMIE (AFP) - US Presidents Cup co-captain Fred Couples says he has assured Tiger Woods he's on the 12-member American squad for the match-play showdown.

Couples, co-captain along with Jay Haas, squelched debate over whether the recently struggling Woods was or should be on the team.

"I've told him that he's going to be on the team," Couples said Thursday prior to a practice round before the Champions Tour Boeing Classic at TPC Snoqualmie Ridge.

"There is no reason for me to wait till September 26 to pick Tiger. He's the best player in the world forever."

Ten players automatically qualify for the team based on points accumulated over the past two years.

Two captains' selections complete the team that will compete against a team of International players at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Australia November 14-20.

The Internationals include players from outside Europe, taking on the United States in a Ryder Cup-style event.



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Djokovic could face Federer in US Open semis



Djokovic (L), Federer

NEW YORK (AFP) - World number one Novak Djokovic could face Roger Federer in the US Open semi-finals, while Thursday's draw put defending champion Rafael Nadal in line for a possible last-four clash with Andy Murray.

Djokovic boasts a stunning 57-2 record in 2011, and one of the Serbian's two match defeats came against Federer in the French Open semi-finals.

Federer's victory at Roland Garros ended Djokovic's season-opening

run of victories at 41 -- one shy of equalling John McEnroe's 1984 record of a 42-match unbeaten start to a season.

When Federer beat him at the French, Djokovic had won 43 matches in a row in a streak stretching back to Serbia's 2010 Davis Cup triumph.

Last year Djokovic beat five-time US Open champion Federer in the semi-finals at Flushing Meadows, where the last Grand Slam tournament of the year begins on Monday.

Top-seeded Djokovic is expected to meet seventh-seeded Gael Monfils of France in the quarter-finals.

Federer could meet eighth-seeded Mardy Fish -- the top-ranked American in the men's field -- in the quarters.

Potential quarter-final clashes in the bottom half of the draw include second-seeded Nadal against fifth-seeded fellow Spaniard David Ferrer and fourth-seeded Murray of Britain against sixth-seeded Robin Soderling of Sweden.



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